



# Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

*Nancy E. Gist, Director*

## FY 1999 State Identification Systems Grants Program

Of the many collaborative efforts the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have undertaken to make local and state law enforcement, prosecutorial, court, and corrections agencies more effective, one of the most critical is the improvement and integration of information systems that those agencies can use to identify and prosecute offenders.

This fact sheet describes the State Identification Systems (SIS) Grants Program, established to give states the resources to develop or improve their computerized identification systems and integrate those systems with the FBI's national identification databases. In fiscal year (FY) 1998, BJA awarded \$9.7 million in FBI-funded SIS grants to eligible states. In FY 1999, \$8.9 million is available for award. The grants can be used to:

- ❑ Create computerized identification systems that are compatible and integrated with databases of the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC).
- ❑ Improve forensic laboratories' ability to analyze deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) in ways that are compatible and integrated with the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS).
- ❑ Develop automated fingerprint systems that are compatible and integrated with the FBI's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS).

### Use of SIS Funds

States may use SIS grants for equipment, supplies, training or educational expenses, modifications to space to accommodate equipment, contractor-provided services

to address backlog or program implementation issues, and state and local personnel expenses if personnel are devoted to a qualifying identification project.

SIS grants may be used by states in conjunction with local government agencies or with other states in any combination. States are not required, however, to pass funding through to local agencies. In addition, states may enter into compacts with other states to carry out the grants. The federal share of funds for a state's program may cover 100 percent of its costs. There is no match requirement.

### Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to receive an SIS grant, a state must require each person convicted of a felony of a sexual nature to provide a sample of blood, saliva, or other specimen to appropriate state law enforcement officials, as designated by the state's chief executive officer. The specimen is used to conduct a DNA analysis consistent with the standards established for DNA testing by the director of the FBI. According to the FBI, as of January 1, 1999, 50 states meet this requirement.

For purposes of the SIS program, the term "state" designates any state of the United States as well as the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands. However, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands are considered one state and, if eligible, will divide the allocation of funds for that state by a 67- and 33-percent share, respectively.

---

## Distribution of Awards

The distribution of SIS funds in FY 1999 will be approximately \$163,155\* to each state that is awarded an SIS grant. Any grant funds that cannot be awarded in any fiscal year will be carried forward to the next fiscal year and added to the total appropriated by Congress for the program.

\* American Samoa may receive \$109,314, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands may receive \$53,841.

## Administration of the SIS Program

In each state, the Governor designates a state agency to administer the state's SIS award. This agency assumes responsibility for submitting the state's application, selecting subrecipients to receive funds, disbursing funds, and performing other administrative functions.

## For Further Information

BJA provides a variety of publications and materials on efforts to improve the criminal justice system at the

federal, state, and local levels. To order publications or to find out more about BJA programs, contact:

### Bureau of Justice Assistance

810 Seventh Street NW.

Washington, DC 20531

202-514-5947

World Wide Web: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>

### Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse

P.O. Box 6000

Rockville, MD 20849-6000

Tel: 1-800-688-4252

World Wide Web: <http://www.ncjrs.org>

Clearinghouse staff are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. eastern time. Ask to be placed on the BJA mailing list.

### U.S. Department of Justice Response Center

1-800-421-6770 or 202-307-1480

Response Center staff are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern time.

FS 000241

April 1999

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
*Bureau of Justice Assistance*

*Washington, DC 20531*

Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use \$300

PRESORTED STANDARD POSTAGE & FEES PAID DOJ/BJA PERMIT NO. G-91
---